

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER

FY 2011 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM

Project Details

1. Project title:

Children's Center Capacity Expansion Initiative

2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):

The Children's Center
1811 15th Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

3. Contact information

- a. Project's primary contact: Tonia Hunt, Executive Director
- b. Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number: 503.655.7725
- c. Email Address: tonia@childrenscenter.cc
- d. Project location (if different than organization's address): n/a

4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.

The Children's Center is a private non-profit entity—the sole child abuse medical assessment program in Clackamas County, providing intervention and prevention services vital to the health and safety of children. The Children's Center supports children and families in cases of suspected physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The medical experts, mental health professionals and social work staff at the Children's Center join partner agencies, including child welfare and law enforcement, to ensure children's injuries are documented, their stories of abuse are heard and action is taken to stop the abuse and heal the wounds. We provide medical assessments for approximately 300 children per year. In order to meet demand, we are doubling our capacity in 2011.

Expanding access to the Children's Center achieves a system-wide impact in overall quality of life for a highly vulnerable population of children. The comorbidity of child abuse and childhood post-traumatic stress disorder is well recognized in medical research. Children who are abused, particularly neglected, are more likely to experience developmental delay due to limited environmental stimulation, poor bonding with care givers as well as possible drug exposure and/or malnutrition. Child maltreatment has also been linked to a higher rate of drug and alcohol abuse, high-risk sexual behavior, teen pregnancy, school failure and criminal activity in adolescent and adult years. Childhood sexual abuse is associated with substantial increased risk of subsequent psychopathology. Even later in life, childhood trauma related to abuse has been shown to be a contributing factor for adverse health outcomes and shortened life spans. Early intervention and introduction of therapeutic services can arrest and prevent these adverse medical outcomes for children. The Children's Center is the best hope for abused and vulnerable children in our region to not only end the abuse but also begin the healing process through comprehensive treatment and support services.

5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?

Private non-profit

6. **From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?**

Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Discretionary Grants

7. **Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

This project will expand our capacity to serve an additional 300 victims of child abuse during 2011-12, providing medical assessments and family support services for 600 children as we open our new \$3.2 million facility in late 2010. This project will add a new Education and Prevention Coordinator to educate and train over 1,000 community members per year to recognize and prevent child abuse, and provide referral services reaching over 2,000 each year. A new Volunteer Program will recruit and train volunteers to support our families and children when they are in the clinic for assessments, perform administrative tasks, and provide maintenance for our new Healing Garden. This project will also provide bi-lingual services for the growing number of children that we see from diverse cultures. In addition, we will be able to expand access to drug exposure testing to document presence of methamphetamines and other highly damaging drugs in the immediate environment of the child.

8. **What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The proposed grant will create five jobs (a total of 3.3 FTE) in a critically needed program service area leading to reduced health risk to children, abuse prevention, and expansion of access to care for at-risk, underserved children.

9. **Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years? If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

No.

Funding Details

10. **Amount requested for this project:**

\$167,350

11. **Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

Grant funds will support direct service programming during FY2011-12. Requested funds will be used to hire new program positions in the vital field of services to victims of child abuse. All positions will be hired for FY 2011, following completion of the new Children's Center facility—the result of a \$3.2 million community investment. The following new positions will be filled in order to expand service capacity in the new building: Medical Examiner (0.8 FTE); Forensic Interviewer (1.0 FTE); Family Support Specialist (0.5 FTE); Intake Specialist (0.5 FTE), Volunteer Coordinator (0.5 FTE). Personnel costs for these five positions (including tax/benefits) total \$223,140 per year.

12. **What is the total cost of the project?**

\$1,000,420

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?

The requested grant supports 50% of personnel costs in Year 1 and 25% in Year 2. Reduced funding may lower the Children's Center's capacity to hire the proposed new positions.

**14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity?
(Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)**

The proposed new positions will be supplemented by two additional positions already funded through a Recovery Act grant from the Department of Justice Competitive Byrne Grant Program, awarded to the Children's Center in FY 2009. The Byrne grant-funded positions are: Clinical Supervisor (1.0 FTE) and Community Outreach Coordinator (0.6 FTE).

**15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.
(Please attach any letters of support for the project with this form)**

1. Providence Health Systems, Russ Danielson, CEO
2. Oregon Department of Human Services, Dr. Bruce Goldberg
3. Attorney General, State of Oregon, John Kroger
4. District Attorney, John Foote
5. Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, Lyn Peterson